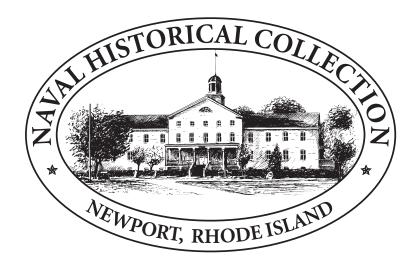
# Register of the Edward C. Kalbfus Papers



Naval War College Newport, RI



## REGISTER OF THE PAPERS OF EDWARD C. KALBFUS

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#### Biographical Sketch

Admiral Edward C. Kalbfus was born on November 29, 1877, to Dr. Daniel and Mary E. Jones Kalbfus of Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania. He attended Selwyn Hall in Reading, Pennsylvania, before enrolling in the Naval Academy in 1895. Active in sports, he played football and was captain of the baseball team during his first class year.

As a midshipman, Kalbfus was on active duty during the Spanish American War, where he participated in the Battle of Santiago Bay, witnessed the sinking of the REINA MERCEDES and served on the Havana Blockade. He saw action during the Philippine Insurcetion, 1900-1902, and was involved in protecting American lives and interests during the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905.

In 1906, he was stationed off Havana in the USS NEWARK while the Navy monitored political conditions on the island. From 1907 to 1909 he served in the USS KANSAS during the 'round the world cruise of the Great White Fleet. In 1914, he participated in the occupation of Vera Cruz, Mexico, and took charge of the Mexican railway system during the naval occupation.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, he commanded the USS POCAHONTAS which transported troops and supplies to European ports. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his wartime service. Important battleship and cruiser commands as well as service with destroyers followed World War I.

Kalbfus reported to the Naval War College in Newport, RI, in 1926, where he was a member of the senior class of 1927. From 1927 until 1929 he was a staff member of the Logistics, Personnel, Material and Supply Division and the Department of Intelligence. He returned to the College in 1934 where he served as president for two years and then again in 1939 for another three year term. Along with Admiral William S. Sims, he was the only naval officer to serve as College president twice.

With war clouds looming on the horizon in 1939, Kalbfus was responsible for organizing and then commanding the Newport Naval Base which spearheaded the Navy's work in the region. He also established the anti-aircraft training center and was responsible for the Army establishing anti-aircraft defenses at Price's Neck in Newport. He was awarded the Legion of Merit when he retired as College president and base commander. Just prior to his retirement, the road from the Training Station to One Mile Corner was named in his honor.

At the end of his tenure as President of the Naval War College in 1942, he was appointed to the Navy's General Board. In 1944, he was a member of the three member Naval Court of Inquiry which investigated the circumstances surrounding the Japanese

attack on Pearl Harbor. The court found that Admiral Husband Kimmel, CIC, Pacific Fleet and CNO Admiral Harold B. Stark had failed to display the judgement commensurate with their rank. Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal endorsed the court's findings. During this time period, Kalbfus held the prestigious post of Director of Naval History.

Admiral Kalbfus was relieved of active duty in 1946 and returned to the Newport area, where he lived in Restmere on Miantonomi Avenue, Middletown, RI. He was active in civic affairs and served as president of the Newport Family Service Society in 1949. He died in Newport in 1954 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His wife, Syria Brown Kalbfus, survived him. The couple had no children.

Admiral Kalbfus received many U.S. and foreign decorations, including the Spanish Campaign Medal, the Sampson Medal, the Philippine Campaign Medal, the Cuban Pacification Medal, the Mexican Service Medal, the Victory Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the Military Order of the Avis from Portugal.

He was a member of many clubs and organizations, including the Army and Navy Club, the Cruising Club of America, the Newport Country Club, and the Battlefields Commission.

#### Career Outline

1877	Born, November 24, Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania
1898	USS OREGON (BB-3), Spanish American War
1899	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD
1900-1902	USS GENERAL ALAVA (AG-5), Philippine Insurrection
1903-1904	USS CINCINNATI (C-7)
1904-1906	U.S. Naval Academy, Department of Marine
	Engineering and Naval Construction, Instructor
1905-1906	USS NEWARK (C-1), Senior Engineer
1907-1909	USS KANSAS (BB-21), Senior Engineer Officer, Great
	White Fleet Cruise
1910	USS KANSAS (BB-21), Gunnery Officer
1910	Navy Department, Target Practice Office
1913-1914	U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Fleet Engineer and Aide to
	cic
1914	USS WYOMING (BB-32), Navigator
1915	Navy Department, Gunnery Exercises and Engineering
	Competitions, Assistant Director
1916-1918	USS POCAHONTAS (SP-3044), CO
1918-1919	USS IOWA (BB-4), CO
1919-1921	Commander Destroyers, Atlantic, Staff
1921-1924	Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Fleet
	Maintenance Division, Head
1924-1926	USS TRENTON (CL-11), CO
1926-1927	Naval War College, Student

1927-1929	Naval War College, Staff
1929-1930	USS CALIFORNIA (BB-44), CO
1930	Commander Battleships, Battle Fleet, Chief of
	Staff
1931	Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Director
	of War Plans; Promoted to Rear Admiral
1932-1934	Battle Force, Destroyer, CO
1934-1936	Naval War College, President
1937-1939	Battleships, Battle Force, CO; Promoted to Vice-
	Admiral
1939-1942	Admiral Naval War College, President; Naval Operating
1939-1942	
1939 <b>-</b> 1942 1941	Naval War College, President; Naval Operating
	Naval War College, President; Naval Operating Base, CO
1941	Naval War College, President; Naval Operating Base, CO Transferred to retired list
1941 1942	Naval War College, President; Naval Operating Base, CO Transferred to retired list General Board, Member; Promoted to Admiral
1941 1942	Naval War College, President; Naval Operating Base, CO Transferred to retired list General Board, Member; Promoted to Admiral Court of Inquiry to investigate Pearl Harbor

#### Description of Papers

The Edward C. Kalbfus papers were deposited in the Naval Historical Collection in two lots: the first lot, consisting of the admiral's commissioning certificates, was found in the basement of Pringle Hall in 1976 and formed the nucleus of the collection, while the second lot was presented to the Naval War College Foundation by John Gawalt of Middletown, RI in 1990. The latter deposit forms the bulk of the collection.

The collection consists or two boxes and several folio items and is divided into three series. Series I, Correspondence, contains letters sent and received regarding personal and official career matters. A number of letters were written to A. Kimsey, an enlisted man who served as a chauffeur/retainer, regarding repairs to the admiral's retirement residence, Restmere, in Middletown, RI. Other significant letters include those regarding the genesis and publication of Sound Military Decision, a text which explores both the rationale and format for tactical and operational decisions, and an account of his years as president of the Naval War College. Series II, Writings, contains part one of a draft work entitled "The Development of the Naval Command Structure, 1898-1945." Series III, Miscellany, contains career and personal photographs, folio newspaper clippings and commissioning certificates. The collection encompasses the years 1905-1954 and is unclassified and open to researchers.

Since Kalbfus served two terms as president of the Naval War College, there is a significant amount of material in the archives pertaining to him. The appendix contains these additional research source materials, as well as his record of publications.

The Kalbfus papers at the Naval War College are the only collection extant pertaining to the admiral's career. They are an important set of manuscripts of a naval officer who saw action in the Spanish American War, the First World War, held important battleship commands, twice served as Naval War College president and as Commanding Officer of the Newport Naval Base, both at the beginning of World War II. His contributions to the Navy both during and after retirement were significant and led to the advancement of the service.

#### Arrangement of Papers

#### Ms. Coll. 50

#### Series I

#### Correspondence, 1942-1954

### Folder Box Correspondence, memoranda and letters sent and 1 1 received regarding official and personal matters, 1942-1944. Correspondents include the Secretary of the Navy, LCDR Norman D. Ballou and Richard Adams. Letters sent and received, 1945, from Richard 2 Adams, G.W. Cannon, A. Kimsey, and Joseph Bennett. 3 Letters sent and received, 1946, from A. Kimsey, regarding the admiral's house, Restmere, in Middletown, RI.

Letters sent and received, 1943-1954, from Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates regarding Sound Military Decision, 1954, and attached letter to Captain H.L. Pence from George P. Murdock, Yale University, April 22, 1943; Memorandum, 1954,

with Kalbfus' reminiscences of his years at the Naval War College, including the events which led to the writing and publication of <u>Sound</u>
<u>Military Decision</u>.

#### Series II

#### Writings

The Development of the Naval Command Structure,

1898-1945, Part I, 1898-1933, first draft by

Admiral Edward C. Kalbfus.

#### Series III

#### Miscellany

- 6 Programs from the USS IOWA, 1945-1948.
- 7 Official portrait photographs of Admiral Edward C. Kalbfus, undated.
- 8 Personal photographs of Admiral and Mrs.
  Kalbfus, undated.
- 9 Photographs of Admiral Kalbfus and crew on the USS CALIFORNIA, ca 1930, and USS PENNSYLVANIA.

- 10 Photographs of officers of USS PHILLIPS, 1942.
- 1 11 Photographs of CO, Destroyer Battle Force and Staff, 24 March 1934.
  - Photographs of Visit to Naval Air Station, Coco Solo, Canal Zone, 1943.
  - Photographs of Admiral Claude Block, Edward C.

    Kalbfus and group, including Admirals Thomas C.

    Hart, Chester W. Nimitz, and Orin Murfin.

#### Miscellany

#### Folio Items

2 Miscellany, Newspaper Clippings, 1942-1947.

Photographs of Admiral E.C. Kalbfus, ships' crew team from USS CALIFORNIA, USS NEVADA, etc.; ships at sea, ships' officers; commemorative photograph album of dedication ceremony of the Suresnes Memorial, September 18, 1952.

#### Miscellany

#### Folio Items

2

Commissioning Certificates to Lieutenant, 1905;
Rear Admiral, 1931; Vice Admiral, 1937;
Admiral, 1938; Admiral on the Retired List,
1942.

#### Appendix:

#### Other Research Source Materials in the Naval War College Archives

#### Record Group 2, Administrative Records

Presented here is a sampling of letters and memoranda from Record Group 2 which were addressed to Kalbfus or sent by him. Much of the record group contains information pertaining to the College during his presidency. Letter from CDR Destroyers, BATFOR in connection with camera charged to ADM Kalbfus, 3 September 1936. S85-2

Correspondence with Captain Roberts in regard to obtaining a typewriter from Ship's Service Store for admiral's niece, Mrs. E.M. Frear. 22 July 1937. 00-1048

Correspondence with Captain Roberts in regard to photo equipment taken by Admiral Kalbfus, 10 May 1937. 00-1048

Dispatch from Combatships, BATFOR in regard to excess gas consumption, President, NWC, 25 March 1937. N4-1

Letters from Admiral Snyder in regard to early detachment of Captains Brainard and Moore from War College with duty in the Fleet. 9 January and 2 February 1937. 00-459

Letter to Admiral Snyder in regard to issue of new Estimate of the Situation pamphlet. 13 February 1937. Alo-3 (ER)

Correspondence with Captain Roberts in regard to his mail, 9 February 1937. 00-1048

Letter from Captain Cook in regard to Admiral Joel Pringle's portrait, death of CDR Porter and forwarding of personal correspondence to the Admiral. 21 January 1937. 00-73

Letter from Chief Bunav appointing President of a selection board, October 21, 1940. 00-667

Correspondence for passports between Captain Roberts and Lt. Ayrault, 27 May 1936. 00-1048

Memorandum explaining advantages of Newport to families of War College officers by Mrs. Kalbfus, 21 June 1935.

Letter of Captain Cooke to Admiral Kalbfus in regard to insurance on official car, condition of admiral's

quarters and transportation of household effects, 17
December 1936. 00-73

Correspondence between Captain Sadler and Multigraph Sales Agency of Providence regarding photograph taken by Admiral Kalbfus, 9 March 1936. S85-2

Correspondence regarding Advanced Course, 21 March 1934. A3-1

Letter regarding Committee Studies of Committees 1, 7 and 8, 11 December 1931. AlO-3 (157)

Letter regarding collection for farewell gift of flowers to Mrs. Kalbfus. 6 January 1937. P6-5

#### Record Group 4, Publications

Kalbfus, Edward C. "Historical Studies and Presentations showing

Lists of Subjects and Assignments, with partial bibliographies. August 1928

A Report of Committee No. 5, 1927.

"A Study of the Naval Operations Conducted by the British Leading Up to and Including the Battle of Trafalgar." A Logistic Study of the Pacific Area as a

Theatre of Operations in an Orange-Blue War, including Logistics of a Fleet Advance across the Pacific.

#### Record Group 8, Intelligence and Technical Archives

Kalbfus, Edward C. Studies of the Outlying Possessions of Japan.

The Islands along the Guam-Bonin Line. E-2, 1927-B4

Information on North Sakhalin as affecting the Japanese Oil Supply. JLF, 1928-48

Aleutian Islands and Alaskan Littoral, Letter to Admiral J.M. Reeves, USN. PL, 1934-95

Flying Deck Cruisers. XTYB, 1934-110

Northern Pacific, Strategy of. Correspondence with RADM H.E. Yarnell, USN. XSTP, 1934-120.

Guantanamo Bay, Removal of Shoal and removal of cable station across Leeward Point, Letter to Captain R.M. Brainard, USN, 6/19/40. UNB

International Law Situations. Letter to CNO. XLAI, 1939-126

Girouard Range Target Angle Instrument. Correspondence with Captain Harvey Delano, USN, XOGP, 1939-143

Doctrine for Employment of Small Craft in War.

Correspondence with John T. Rowland and Captain R.M.

Brainard, USN, XTYV, 1939-144

Correspondence relative to Dr. Muzumdar - Lecture on India to Captain H.C. Train, UNT

#### Record Group 13, Theses

Kalbfus, Edward C. Policy. Senior Class Thesis, 1927, 73pp.
Report of Committee No. 5, 1927. "A Study of the Naval
Operations Conducted by the British up to and including the Battle of Trafalgar." 214pp.

#### Record Group 14, Faculty and Staff Presentations

Kalbfus, Edward C. Camperdown and the Nile. 21 April and 24 September, 1942. 54pp.

Operations for Securing Command of Sea Areas, Part II and Part III. 14 July 1941. 29pp.

A Review of Important Events from the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, 1948 to the Siege of Quebec, 1759. 8 February 1940. 26pp.

Studies of the Outlying possessions of Japan, the Islands Along the Guam--Bonin Line, October 1927.

#### Record Group 16, Addresses

Kalbfus,	Edward C.,	NWC Opening	g Address	, Class of 1942
		Graduation	Address,	1936
		Graduation	Address,	1940, 1941, 1942
		Addresses,	September	c, 1940 and March 1941

#### Record Group 18, Naval War College Selected Readings

Sound Military Decision, Newport, RI: Naval War College, 1942.

#### Record Group 28, Naval War College Presidents

#### Folder

- Biographical Sketches, Obituary Notices, 1956. Letter to SecNav, January 15, 1943, on the Study of the Science and Art of War in Its Relation to the Safeguarding of the Nation's Future, 1943.
- 27 Speeches given by Kalbfus, including Opening Address at NWC, July 2, 1954; Opening of Lecture Course, NWC, August 24, 1934; Sons of Revolution Banquet, August 29, 1934; Art Association Talk, Newport, RI, September 8, 1934; Navy Day Broadcast, October, 1934; Remarks at British Empire Club, Providence, RI, October 22, 1934; Notes for remarks on Operations Problem III, February 20, 1935; Speech at Sons of American Revolution Meeting, February 22, 1935; Remarks at Army and Navy Dinner, Worcester, MA, March 28, 1935; Draft of Armistice Day Speech, Harrisburg, PA, November 7, 1935; The Campaign and Battle of Trafalgar, Tufts College Historical Society, Medford, MA, April 15, 1936; Address on the Unveiling of the Pringle Portrait, Naval War College, May 18, 1936; Remarks before NWC graduating class, May 22, 1936; Remarks made in connection with the One Hundredth Anniversary of the birth of RADM Alfred Thayer

Mahan, September 27, 1940; Address at a Patriotic
Service at the Jewish Synagogue, February 14, 1941;
Address given at RI Junior Bar Conference Program,
March 21, 1941; Navy Day Broadcast over WPRO, October
27, 1941; NWC Graduation Exercises, December 2, 1941;
Remarks at Quonset Point NAS, May 19, 1942; Remarks at
Unveiling of Mahan Portrait, NWC, August 25, 1945.

Correspondence, Letters sent and received to Lt. Robert A.J. English regarding Byrd Antarctic Expedition II, 1935-1936; Letters received from Dr. H. Emile Enthoven, 1942, and George G. Wilson, 1940; Letters sent to Captain R.S. Crenshaw 1940, James B. Smith, 1942, Captain Richard W. Bates, 1943-1946, copy of an article by Gardner Dunton, Providence Journal, from an interview with Admiral Kalbfus.

#### Oral History

References to Admiral Kalbfus appear in the Naval War College Oral Histories of Charles F. Adams, Mrs. Roy Campbell Smith, Jr., History of Naval War Gaming at the college and reminiscences of Navy Wives, the latter published by the U.S. Naval Institute.

#### Published Books and Articles

#### <u>Books</u>

Sound Military Decision. An Introduction by Captain Frank M.

Snyder, USN (Ret.). Annapolis, MD: U.S. Naval Institute

Press, 1992. Classics of Seapower Series. Admiral Kalbfus

was instrumental in revising and having republished the 1942

edition of the book which was originally published by the

Naval War College in 1936.

#### <u>Articles</u>

Kalbfus, Edward C. "History of Engineering Competitions in the
Navy." U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, 139 (September,
1911), 995-1004.
"British "Sloop of War" Diamond Rock." U.S. Naval
Institute Proceedings, 298 (December, 1927), 1301-1302.
"O'Kay." U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, 329 (July
1930), 602.
. "Main Engine Repairs Underway." U.S. Naval Institute
Proceedings, 131 (September 1909), 895-902.

#### Articles About Kalbfus

Buell, Thomas B. "Admiral Edward C. Kalbfus and The Naval Planner's "Holy Scripture": Sound Military Decision." Naval War
College Review, (May-June 1973), 31-41.